

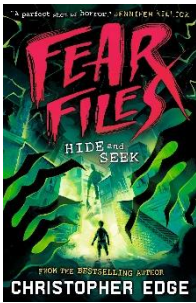
FEDERATION OF CHILDREN'S BOOK GROUPS CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD 2026 BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

Fear Files: Hide and Seek

Written by Christopher Edge and illustrated by Mathias Ball

Published by Walker Books

ISBN: 978-1529527377



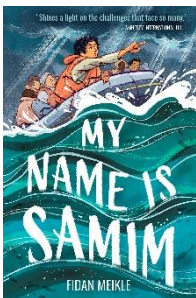
Think you're playing a normal game of hide and seek? Think again. What starts as harmless fun quickly becomes a spine-tingling nightmare. Adam and his friend follow a strange invitation and find themselves trapped in a deserted town, where the rules of hide and seek turn deadly. Short chapters, creepy twists, and imaginative world-building create constant tension. The reader will be hooked from the start in this spooky, fast-paced adventure story full of suspense and dark surprises.

My Name is Samim

Written by Fidan Meikle

Published by Floris Books

ISBN: 978-1782509301



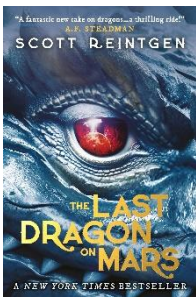
The inspirational story of 13-year-old Samim's perilous journey as a refugee from Afghanistan through Europe to the UK. He has to explain his escape to a government caseworker to try to gain asylum status. Meanwhile, Samim is in a caring foster home and learning to settle in the local school. Luck and skill are on his side when he joins the school chess club! It is a moving story full of dangers and hardship but his resilience, hope and others' kindness help him to survive.

The Last Dragon on Mars

Written by Scott Reintgen

Published by Rock The Boat

ISBN: 978-0861549993



For Lunar Jones and his crew of fellow orphans, every day on Mars, a wasteland ravaged by wars and storms, is a fight for survival. One day, a scavenging mission goes dangerously wrong, forcing Lunar to hide underground. There, he finds the only hope left for a dying planet: the last dragon. Alarmingly, the dragon chooses him to be the one to save Mars. A highly imaginative blend of science fiction, fantasy, and Greek mythology that captivates from the very first page.